Atty Docket #1266-001

AMENDED CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An integrated, monopole reinforcement sleeve system for reinforcing monopoles in areas of stress, comprising:

at least one pair of complementary hemi-sleeves attachable above the ground to a monopole to reinforce the monopole at predetermined locations that are overstressed without adding new lateral stress to the monopole at the predetermined locations; and

a non-slip filler;

wherein the non-slip filler is inserted between the at least one pair of complementary hemi-sleeves and the monopole at the predetermined locations that are overstressed; and the at least one pair of complementary hemi-sleeves are tightened around the monopole and fixed thereto by fasteners, to form an integral reinforcing sleeve system for existing monopoles to reinforce the predetermined overstressed locations and to reinforce the monopole against lateral forces acting thereon;

thereby providing integrated monopole reinforcement.

2. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one pair of complementary hemi-sleeves include corresponding flanges for fastening the at least one pair of complementary hemi-sleeves to the predetermined overstressed locations of the monopole.

3. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one pair of complementary hemi-sleeves are shaped to approximated the shape of the monopole surface.

4. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 3, wherein the at least one pair of complementary hemi-sleeves have a circular shape.

5. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 3, wherein the at least one pair of complementary hemi-sleeves have a non-circular shape.

6. (Original): The system according to Claim 5, wherein the non-circular shape is a polygonal shape.

7. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 3, wherein at least one pair of complementary hemi-sleeves are located at a predetermined, select position on the monopole for optimal reinforcement of the monopole against lateral stresses, in particular due to appurtenances attached to the monopole.

8. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one pair of complementary hemi-sleeves include multiple pairs of complementary hemi-sleeves positionable at different locations on the monopole.

9. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 1, wherein the non-slip filler is an elastic polymer.

10. (Currently amended) The system according to Claim 1, wherein the non-slip filler is neoprene ~~an elastic polymer~~.

11. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 1, wherein the non-slip filler is selected from the group consisting of polymers, foams, adhesives, and combinations thereof.

12. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 1, wherein the non-slip filler is combined with the at least one pair of complementary hemi-sleeves and

attached to a monopole in a snug-fitting manner without gaps between the at least one pair of complementary hemi-sleeves and the monopole.

13. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 1, further including a mounting support incorporated into the at least one pair of complementary hemi-sleeves for mounting appurtenances to the monopole by attaching the appurtenances to the mounting support and to the corresponding at least one pair of complementary hemi-sleeves.

14. (Original): The system according to Claim 13, wherein the mounting support is selected from the group consisting of supports for antennas, microwave dishes, mounting platforms, mounting brackets, transmission lines, lights, reflectors, signs, flags, and combinations thereof.

15. (Withdrawn): A method for the reinforcement of monopoles with an integrated reinforcement sleeve, including the steps of:

Calculating the stresses along the monopole length according to the applicable code;

identifying the locations of the monopole requiring reinforcement;

designing the sleeve required to reinforce the monopole consistent with these calculations, including designing the thickness of the sleeve such that the maximum utilization of the reinforced monopole does not exceeds 80%; and

installing the sleeve on the monopole at the predetermined locations; thereby providing an integrated reinforced monopole and sleeve system.